

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-48. (Cancelled)

49. (Previously Presented) A process for producing composite metallic ultrafine particles with a core metal covered by a protective layer, consisting of:

providing a metal source having a metallic component selected from the group consisting of a metallic salt, a metallic oxide, and a metallic hydroxide,

providing an organic compound having a functional alcoholic hydroxyl group,

mixing the metal source and the organic compound to form a mixture of the metal source and the organic compound, and

heating the mixture of the metal source and the organic compound to a temperature at which the metallic components gather together to form the core metal, and the alcoholic hydroxyl group of the organic compound becomes bonded to a surface of the core metal, thereby forming the core metal and the protective layer of the organic compound.

50-61. (Cancelled)

62. (New) The process for producing composite metallic ultrafine particles according to claim 49, wherein the metallic component is selected from the group consisting of Cu, Ag, Au, In, Si, Ti, Ge, Sn, Fe, Co, Ni, Ru, Rh, Pd, Os, Ir, Pt, V, Cr and Bi.

63. (New) The process for producing composite metallic ultrafine particles according to claim 49, wherein the metallic salt is selected from the group consisting of carbonates, nitrates, chlorides, acetates, formates, citrates, oxalates, urates, phthalates, and fatty acid salts that have no more than four carbon atoms.

64. (New) The process for producing composite metallic ultrafine particles according to claim 49, wherein the organic compound having a functional alcoholic hydroxyl group is a straight-chain or branched-chain alcohol having four or more carbon atoms, or an aromatic compound including a hydroxyl group.